CLAIMS

1. A system for color measurement for a color hard copy apparatus, having a print media transport path, comprising:

an illumination source adjacent to said path;

a plurality of photodetectors adjacent to said path; and

a test pattern on a sheet of media traveling said path, the pattern having a geometric configuration such that each of said photodetectors detects substantially discrete regions of said pattern having a single color generated by said apparatus.

2. The system as set forth in claim 1, further comprising:

said photodetectors having predetermined spectral responses.

3. The system as set forth in claim 1 wherein the illumination source is broadband.

4. The system as set forth in claim 1, further comprising:

a white calibration target mounted within the field of view of all of said sensors.

5. A color hard copy apparatus, having a mechanism generating a test pattern on media transported along a predetermined path through said apparatus, comprising:

adjacent said path downstream of the mechanism, a broad band illumination source mounted for illuminating said pattern; and

adjacent said path downstream of the mechanism, an array of sensors mounted for detecting color properties of discrete areas of a region of the test pattern having an intended uniform color generated by the mechanism.

6. The apparatus as set forth in claim 5, comprising:

said sensors having predetermined spectral responses.

7. The apparatus as set forth in claim 5 wherein the illumination source is broadband.

8. The apparatus as set forth in claim 5, further comprising:

a white calibration target mounted within the field of view of all of said sensors.

9. A method for measuring actual color produced by a color hard copy device comprising the steps of:

a) illuminating with broad band light, a region of a color test pattern generated by the device, wherein said region has a first color generated by the device;

b) discretely sensing actual color characteristics of individual areas of said region; and

c) storing data representative of said color characteristics.

10. The method as set forth in claim 9, comprising the further steps of:

printing a plurality of intended colors in addition to said first color with said device, and

repeating steps a)-c) for each of the plurality of intended colors other than said first color.

11. The method as set forth in claim 9, comprising the further step of:

prior to steps a) - c), calibrating each of said sensors using a white calibration target.